

From: Bushong, Linda (MDE) **On Behalf Of** Leikert, Howard J (MDE)
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 9:17 AM
To: MDE-SchoolNutrition
Subject: Tuesday News from MDE 012412

I am back from two conferences and there is some information that you will find interesting:

- 1) New Meal Pattern – It is being introduced Wednesday, January 25 at 11:15 a. m. by First Lady Michelle Obama. Following this announcement, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be having webinars for State Agencies only (Michigan will be participating). Please withhold asking questions about the new meal pattern until the School Nutrition Programs (SNP) staff has an opportunity to review the new meal pattern and receive proper training. I am reasonably confident I will be able to provide “the basics” next week in my Tuesday News but formal full training will take some time. In any event, we will keep you all posted on the latest information we receive.
- 2) Local Educational Agency Review System (LEARS) Report – In case you have been looking for it online, the LEARS Report is not yet available. We are working on a couple of changes that have taken longer than anticipated. The report will still be due MARCH 1, 2012, as USDA has given us a new, very tight timeline for passing the information on to them. We will let you know as soon as the system is functioning and available for you to fill out along with some guidance to assist you in the changes. To help you prepare for filling out this year’s LEARS report, you should be aware that field 4-1 (a) will be prepopulated with the number of directly certified students in your district with data we have received from the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI). This number should be the MINIMUM number of directly certified students in your district as it will not include homeless, migrant, runaway, and extended eligibility students. There will be a separate field that will allow districts to INCREASE the number of directly certified students. If direct certification lists are properly reviewed, there should not be a need to DECREASE the prepopulated field number.

I will have much more for you next week. Stay tuned.

Howard Leikert, MBA, SNS

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